

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-05 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /079 W

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R 021200Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4369

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3148

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK

SUBJ: INDIAN DEFENSE MINISTER ON PAKISTAN'S MILITARY
PREPARATIONS

1. INDIAN DEFENSE MINISTER BANSI LAL IS REPORTED BY A
MARCH 2 HINDUSTAN TIMES STORY TO HAVE CHARGED PAKISTAN
WITH "PREPARING AGAIN" FOR AN ENGAGEMENT WITH INDIA.
SPEAKING TO A VETERANS' RALLY AT SONEPAT, HARYANA,
MARCH 1, LAL SPECIFICALLY ACCUSED PAKISTAN OF BUYING ARMS
FROM ABROAD, ENLARGING ITS ARMED FORCES AND MAKING
PREPARATIONS ON A LARGER SCALE THAN ITS NORMAL DEFENSE
NEEDS REQUIRE (ACCORDING TO A SAMACHAR REPORT OF THE
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SAME EVENT). LAL SAID THAT SINCE INDIA HAD ACHIEVED

SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN DEFENSE PRODUCTION THANKS TO THE
PRIME MINISTER'S FORESIGHT, THE EVENTS OF 1971 WOULD
BE REPEATED IF PAKISTAN ATTACKED.

2. COMMENT -- THERE ARE SOME SLIGHT VARIATIONS IN THE
SAMACHAR AND HINDUSTAN TIMES REPORTS AND ONLY SEVERAL
DIRECT QUOTATIONS. THE HEADLINES ESSENTAILLY AGREE
HOWEVER: "PINDI WARNED AGAINST AGGRESSION" (TIMES OF
INDIA), "BANSI LAL WARNS OF PAK ARMS BUILD-UP" (PATRIOT).
"BANSI LAL WARNS PAKISTAN" (INDIAN EXPRESS), ETC.
SAXBE

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